

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Rhode Island State Pilotage Commission
Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908**

**Proposed minutes of the RI State Pilotage Commission Meeting
Held at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island
on March 4, 2010**

Members in attendance:

**Michael Scanlon, Chair
Captain E. Howard McVay, Jr.; Member
Captain J. Peter Fritz, Member
Larry Mouradjian, Member**

Others in attendance: Gary Powers, Esq.; Joanne Scorpio, Recording Secretary; Capt. Paul Costabile, Ex. Director, NMP; Capt. Sean Bogus, NMP; Capt. Vincent Kirby, NMP; Capt. Robert Gifford, Goff & Page Co.; Tom Sullivan, Moran Shipping

Quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. The minutes of the February 4, 2010 meeting were approved by assent.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Apprentice Pilot Update-

1) Captain McVay reported that the State Pilot Board is ready to certify Captain Bogus for examination for Narragansett Bay and will schedule a date for the examine in near future.

2) Capt. McVay advised the members that Capt. Soukhanov is progressing along, Capt. Barnaby is actively working and progressing along, and Capt. Merrigan has a backlog of time off so he will be spending more time apprentice-piloting in the bay.

3) M. Scanlon reported that he has all but one of the Pilot's physicals. Capt. Costabile said he will send in Capt. Gray's form which will be the last.

B. Regulations changes-

1) Att. Powers distributed his proposed regulation changes to the Commission members for discussion.

2) After the Commission and attendees discussed their proposals, the Chair requested that the proposed regulations be posted with the Secretary of State's office and be presented at the public hearing for comments.

3) Capt. McVay motioned to make a modification to the regulations (12.03[B][2]) to increase the gross tonnage from 25,000 to 30,000 gross tons for probationary licensed pilots. The Commission members approved the motion.

II. New Business

A. Uninspected pilot boats-

1) The Chair stated that he spoke with John Andrews of Safe Sea about transporting pilots using uninspected

pilot boats which may be a violation of RI statute and regulation. The chair then said he would like to get a ruling before pursuing a cease and desist order and that he would seek advice from the Attorney General's office.

2) Attorney Powers stated that he will review the statutory authority.

B. Auxiliary channel-

1) The Chair stated that the Coast Guard has proposed an alternate transit route in Narragansett Bay from the east passage to the Davisville channel north of Gould Island. He went on to state that the proposal was made so sailing regattas and other similar events can be held within the anchorage boundaries.

2) P. Fritz inquired whether or not the Coast Guard had surveyed the alternate route, and would it be safe for the pilots to navigate vessels.

3) Capt. McVay stated that there was no updated survey of the channel.

4) M. Scanlon stated that he wanted to look into the Coast Guard's authority so the Commission could make a decision on a course of action. He proposed to draft a letter to send to the Coast Guard expressing the Commission's concerns regarding the auxiliary route. He outlined some of the questions and comments that will be in the letter:

a. The pilot should make the determination on what route they travel in the bay.

b. What is the condition of the bottom of the bay?

c. What limitations are there and will it be mandatory?

d. Does the Coast Guard have the authority to propose alternate

routes?

5) Capt. McVay stated that he had concerns about the route not being currently surveyed for safe passage.

6) Capt. Bogus emphasized that traveling north of Gould Island is far less safe than passing through the wider deeper waters west of Gould Island.

7) L. Mouradjian motioned for the Commission to draft a letter of opposition to the Coast Guard expressing all of their concerns. The motion was approved.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Scheduled Meeting

The Commission plans to hold the next regular monthly Meeting in the conference room of the Division of Law Enforcement at DEM headquarters located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI on April 8, 2010 starting at approximately 11:00 a.m. The public hearing will also be held on April 8, 2010 and begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room 300.